

Memorandum

Project: NVE Ship Creek Wayside

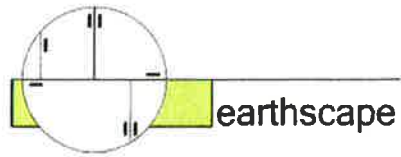
Date: March 10, 2017

Regarding: Advisory Group Meeting, March 4, 2017

Attendees: Joel Isaak, Richard Farber, Maria Coleman, Lois Munson, Angeleen Waskey, Dwayne Adams

The committee met with Joel Isaak, sculptor for the art objects to be installed at the NVE Ship Creek interpretive site. Following are discussion points and direction received for continuing work on the NVE Ship Creek project:

- Joel presented his current work for the fish drying rack including the spruce poles and the split fish. He also presented a gesture frame that represents Grandma Olga's proposed stance, as well as an initial face cast that would approximate Grandma Olga's facial features.
- Comments related to Grandma Olga:
 - The committee asked that Grandma Olga's stance appear more as though she was walking, with her right foot forward, not back.
 - Her face should represent Grandma Olga at the age of 60 years.
 - Clothes should be traditional in nature in order that her clothing would be instructive as to traditional styles. Boots should be fish skin boots. The clothing should not feature more modern shirts and trousers that might have been worn at fish camp (shown in *Shem Pete's Alaska*).
 - Her hair should be bound by a bandana, pushed back on her head as she would have worn her hair when cleaning fish. The image at the Palmer hotel is probably the best representation.
 - Joel will next work on the musculature and face and will send photos as the sculpture develops for the committee to review and offer comments.
 - Maria will provide photos of Lee Stephan and Alberta Stephan for Joel's assistance in forming the facial structure.
- Comments related to the fish rack:
 - The committee liked the fish rack and felt it provided a good approximation of the split fish and spruce poles. Joel will leave the bronze with a raw finish intended to naturally age.
- Joel also discussed the fish that will be embedded in the glass/concrete:
 - The fish will include a king salmon, red salmon, dog salmon, and hooligan.
 - Traditional Dena'ina names will be provided, in addition to common English names.
- The group finished with a discussion of the fish trap.
 - As agreed before, the opening will be round, not square.
 - Maria will provide images for Joel's benefit.
- There was some discussion concerning Joel interviewing different tribal members regarding clothing and other aspects of the work. Dwayne emphasized that the determination of the



clothing and Grandma Olga's presentation, as well as other aspects of the work, was up to the committee. The committee needs to make decisions regarding the presentation and let Dwayne and Joel know. Otherwise, Joel may make determinations that, while accurate for one person or one clan may not be appropriate for representation of the Native Village of Eklutna as a whole. The committee needs to determine what is appropriate.

Images from Meeting



Concept bust of Grandma Olga



Grandma Olga's position on gesture frame



Gesture frame of Grandma Olga's stance



Maria Coleman illustrates preferred stance for Grandma Olga sculpture



Fish Rack Frame



Fish Rack Frame



Fish drying rack with split salmon



Close up of Spruce Poles



Close up of spruce pole and split fish

